

## COMMUNITY

It's salsa time in Maricopa!  
 Page 16, 18



## SPORTS

Rattlers to train at Copper Sky  
 Page 19

# WHO WANTS ROTARY PARK?

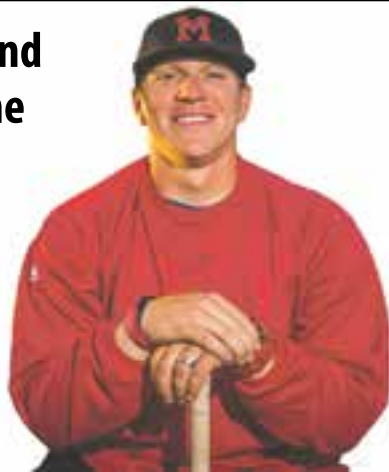


Aron Rauch, president of Maricopa Rotary Club, stands at Rotary Park, which is next to Maricopa Unified School District. The city is debating whether to acquire the park. Page 8

ADAM WOLFE

"Our players have one responsibility and that is to continue to let people see the qualities Nate [Ford] displayed on the baseball field and in the community."

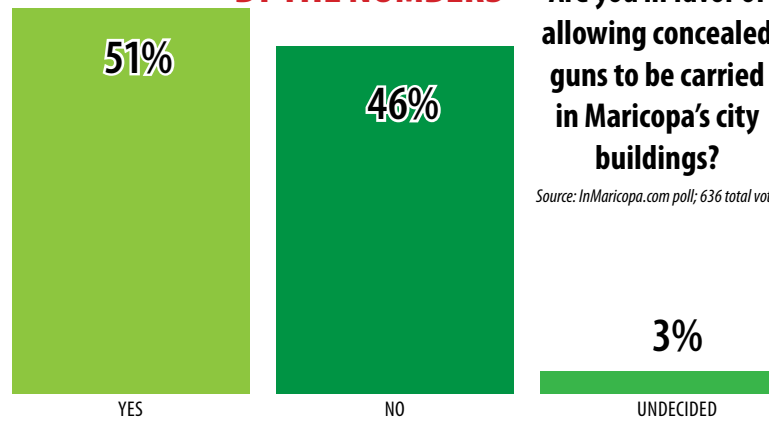
— Baseball coach Andrew Pollak, Page 24



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## BY THE NUMBERS



Are you in favor of allowing concealed guns to be carried in Maricopa's city buildings?

Source: InMaricopa.com poll; 636 total votes

**NOTEBOOK**

# Never be in a hurry to make a mistake

BY **RAQUEL HENDRICKSON**  
EDITOR

Maricopa cannot develop quickly enough for a lot of residents. The sight of empty lots in key locations and a redundancy of some business types are a cause for frustration.

Everyone has a list of businesses they would love to see come to town. Not all are practical. Fewer still are interested.

That's not a bad thing. It's reality. Recognizing the reality of Maricopa's marketplace for its strengths and weaknesses prevents major bungling.

Push for progress, but never be in a hurry to make a mistake.

Many lament the slowdown that hit Maricopa in the recession, but the city has spun that as an opportunity to get a handle on growth. Though it does not excuse

plodding behavior or excessive red tape, there's some truth in that.

Whether commercial or residential, developments have risk. One hasty decision can ripple for many years. No one wants to bring in a business that cannot meet its financial goals. That helps no one.


Finding the perfect fit is the challenge of the landowners and their development partners. The city's Economic Development Department is tasked with helping that process while also bringing jobs to the community. Could that be happening more quickly and more obviously? Many Maricopans emphatically say, "Yes!"

But one thing at a time.

Where public opinion has been begged

for is on the city's proposed General Plan. How should commercial areas develop and how will that impact infrastructure, traffic flow, the environment and public safety? A lot of decisions are wrapped in that, and with them many opportunities for mistakes at the private and municipal levels.

It's not useful to demand *that* retailer or *this* restaurant or the long-promised overpass *right now*. Nor is sitting back and counting on fate just because population models show 30-percent growth in the next five years.

Keep pushing for progress, frustrated Maricopans, but understand the slow sequence of repercussions. As Winston Churchill said, "Only one link in the chain of destiny can be handled at a time." 



RAQUEL  
HENDRICKSON

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# COMET introducing fare pass for fixed route

BY RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

For Maricopa's transit department, it's been slow going as staff works out the best approach to gain and serve riders.

City of Maricopa Express Transit (COMET) has been in a constant state of adjustment. It has had steady use of its demand response route, averaging about 50 passengers a week. Its new limited fixed route usually has 7-8 passengers a week.

"We're actually on course to increase our ridership 30.2 percent for the year," Maestas said.

That would equal more than 4,000 trips for the fiscal year. The total from July 2014 through June 2015 was fewer than 3,000.

Now the department is introducing fare passes for the fixed route.

"The pass prevents the driver from

having to do the task of making change," Maestas said. "It's just practical."

Rides in the six-passenger minivans are 50 cents each.

Maestas said his department is also working on a program for monthly passes that could involve a discount, but that would have to go before the city council for approval.

The mediocre numbers for the limited fixed route have been a sensitive point for the department. COMET started as a fixed-route system in 2010 but after a year was transitioned to the demand response system.

The new fixed route has been operating for less than a year. Maestas said it is not even established yet and should not be prejudged.

The fixed route is operating without bus stop signage, with the exception of



the Central Arizona College campus. Transportation planner David Maestas said that is because the route has not been carved in stone.

Development Services hopes to improve the efficiency of the fixed route system by eliminating seldom-used stops at City Hall and the Park-n-Ride. The future overpass may also impact the route.


"One change we are proposing to the route is to change the route to a circular route," Maestas said. "What that does is it closes the loop without lengthening

the hours. It makes it feasible for somebody to have the assurance to go shopping and reasonably be able to get back home."

He said Development Services hopes to acquire right-of-way for bus stops and install bus stop signs, work through the budget

to develop bus shelters and aggressively market the bus stop locations.

Development Services Director Martin Scribner said the effort is to grow the transit system incrementally.

"What we really want is not a repeat of things that might have happened in the past," he said. "We're trying to edge our way forward, and so far we feel it's working really well." 

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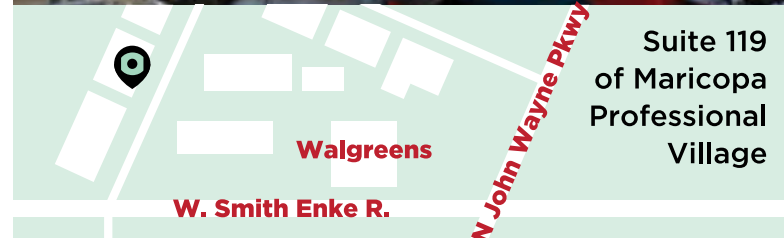
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**MARCH****3****Maricopa Youth Town Hall**

8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m., Copper Sky Multigenerational Complex  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**Youth Symposium, featuring Run Jump Throw**

9 a.m.-2 p.m., Maricopa Elementary School  
18150 N. Alterra Parkway

**Gary Kiehne Meet-and-Greet**

5:30 p.m., Ak-Chin Southern Dunes  
48456 W. Highway 238

**Sixth Grade Orientation & Informational Meeting**

6 p.m., Leading Edge Academy  
18700 N. Porter Road

**Paying for College Workshop**

6:30 p.m., Central Arizona College-Maricopa  
17945 N. Regent Drive

**4****Terri Clark in Concert**

8 p.m., The Lounge at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino  
15406 N. Maricopa Road

**5****Sun Life "For the Love of Chocolate" Fun Run**

8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**Spring Fling Craft & Vendor Fair**

8 a.m., Maricopa Community Church  
44977 W. Hathaway Ave.

**8****Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library**

1:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**9****Business to Business Expo**

5-7 p.m., Central Arizona College  
17945 N. Regent Drive

**10-12****Maricopa Community Theatre presents "Blithe Spirit"**

7 p.m. (matinee 2 p.m. Saturday), Maricopa High School Lecture Hall  
45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**12****Second Saturday Market**

8-11 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**Rededication of Tevin Jenkins Memorial**

11 a.m., Corner of SR 347 and Maricopa Road (southbound)



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**12-25**  
**Arizona Rattlers Public Practices**  
 12:30-2:30 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
 55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**15**  
**Leading Edge Groundbreaking**  
 8:30 a.m., Leading Edge Academy  
 18700 N. Porter Road

**Maricopa Artists Opening Reception**  
 5-7 p.m., City Hall  
 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**City Council Work Session**  
 6 p.m., City Hall  
 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**City Council Meeting**  
 7 p.m., City Hall  
 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library**  
 1:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**16**  
**Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board Meeting**  
 6:30 p.m., District Office  
 44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway

**18**  
**"A Touch of Class" Prom Fashion Show**  
 6-9 p.m., Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center  
 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**17**  
**Third Thursday on the Porch**  
 9-11 a.m., Maricopa Public Library  
 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**19**  
**Salsa Festival & Maricopa Science City**  
 2-8 p.m., Copper Sky Regional Park  
 55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

**22**  
**Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library**  
 1:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**24**  
**Stand-Up for Veterans Resource Fair**  
 5-8 p.m., City Hall  
 39700 W. Civic Center Plaza

**26**  
**Maricopa March Madness 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament**  
 8 a.m., Copper Sky Regional Park, 55345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and Pacana Park, 19000 N. Porter Road

**3-Hour Movie Critic: Superman vs. Batman**  
 10 a.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center  
 16000 N. Maricopa Road

**Arizona Rattlers Fan Fest**  
 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center  
 16000 N. Maricopa Road

**Daddy Daughter Dance**  
 4-7 p.m., Maricopa Wells Middle School  
 45725 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**"Spice of Life" Senior Variety Show**  
 6 p.m., Maricopa High School Performing Arts Center  
 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave.

**Frankie Ballard in Concert**  
 8 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center Amphitheater  
 16000 N. Maricopa Road

**27**  
**Coffee with Friends of the Maricopa Library**  
 1:30 p.m., Maricopa Public Library  
 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road

**30**  
**Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board Meeting**  
 6:30 p.m., District Office  
 44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway

**APRIL**

**2**  
**Maricopa Music Circle Spring Concert**  
 7 p.m., UltraStar Multi-tainment Center Amphitheater  
 16000 N. Maricopa Road

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# Rotary Park's future hinges on City Hall, even overpass

BY ADAM WOLFE

Before Maricopa was a city, it had a park. Back when the Heritage District was not called the Heritage District but was just Maricopa, the local Rotary Club saw the unincorporated community's need for safe recreation.

The club was only 2 years old in 1956 when it decided the community needed a pool. According to Patricia Brock's "Reflections of a Desert Town," Rotarians John Smith and Fred Enke donated 3.5 acres, and the club raised money and donated labor to construct the swimming pool in 1958.

The park included a lawn shaded by

trees, a ramada with picnic tables and grills, a basketball court, volleyball pit and bathrooms.

For decades, the pool was the place to go in the summer.

But times changed in Maricopa. The community grew, eventually incorporating and building a city park called Pacana. When Copper Sky Regional Park and its aquatic center opened in 2014, Maricopa Rotary Club closed its swimming pool.

Now, the city maintains the lawn area while the Rotary Club manages the now-drained pool, locked restrooms, basketball court and ramada.

The Maricopa City Council is contemplating taking over Rotary Park to

make sure the Heritage District continues to have a usable park.

The Council seems to favor taking ownership of park, but the debate over how much of the park to maintain remains a divisive issue.

"We would like to acquire at least the park and get the restrooms open," Maricopa Community Services Directory Kristie Riester said. "Right now the bathrooms are secured and closed off and unavailable for people that are accessing the park to use."

Rotary President Aron Rausch said he has doubts the property can legally be split between two owners, another issue to be studied by City Hall.



ADAM WOLFE

**Rotary Park in the Heritage District dates back to the 1950s.**

If the Council moves forward with the purchase of the park, the city would conduct a survey of the park. The cost of the survey is approximately \$6,320 and another \$7,300 is expected to go toward renovations of the restrooms.

Though the city has not done a study of the pool costs, City Manager Gregory Rose estimated repair costs would exceed \$500,000. Reister said her rough guess for renovating the existing structure was



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\$1 million.

“When I first moved here, we used that pool a lot,” council member Vincent Manfredi said. “Does Rotary have any intention to spend the million dollars to fix it? If they don’t, there is no point in not acquiring the whole (park) and just taking the pool out or repurposing it. Otherwise it’s just going to fall apart, become an eyesore or create a hazard.”

Ideas such as a community garden or playground equipment have been mentioned as an alternative if the pool is filled in.

“I think the issue here is if there is interest in having the city staff move forward and start these negotiations,” Mayor Christian Price said. “The long-term plan needs to be brought back before us so we can make the ultimate decision. If (the park is) going to come to us, then it needs to be of a new use. We have to have the right to change that in the future.”

Another issue surrounding the park is whether it will stay a park when the State Route 347 overpass is built.



DEVIN CARSON

Rotary Park was created to build a community pool, which was completed in 1958. The pool closed when Copper Sky Regional Park opened.

One of the elements of the overpass is the redirection of traffic from Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway to Honeycutt Road. The Arizona Department of Transportation is working on an alternative that would expand an existing access road by Maricopa Unified School District and direct it through to the MCG Highway.

If ADOT sticks to that plan, the road would be directly adjacent to and even within the borders of Rotary Park. That could affect park operations.

If the park is no longer used as a park, the ownership rights are transferred back to the original title holder, Maricopa Community Services Company, because it was deeded to the Rotary Club as a park.

“I’m concerned about the clause that if it no longer serves as a park it reverts back to the granter,” Councilmember Peggy Chapados said. “We can’t guarantee what the future of that land will be. With the future of Maricopa-Casa Grande and the 347 and the changes in that area, we can’t guarantee what it will be.”

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RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

**The Duke at Rancho El Dorado is frequently busy but was still hurt by a Valley-wide 30-percent drop in Canadian visitors.**

## The Duke focused on improvements after coming off market

**BY RAQUEL HENDRICKSON**

As a profitable venture for its owner, The Duke at Rancho El Dorado is off the market, but one of its sister courses is for sale.

Wilson Gee, CEO of RMJ Property Inc., said The Duke was only up for sale because a potential buyer reached out.

"We had an unsolicited offer, and we thought since we had four of them, we would sell one of them," Gee said. "When that deal didn't come through, we said, 'No, let's keep it.'"

The course was on the market for about six months. RMJ also owns Foothills Golf Club, Club West and Ahwatukee Country Club. Club West is now on the market for \$1.95 million.

Gee said his interest in The Duke now is its improvement as a golf venue. That is a reprieve from issues of other RMJ Properties.

Gee's company infamously bought and closed the Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Course in what turned into a lawsuit in 2014 and a public relations nightmare with neighbors. In 2015, that property was sold to The True Life Companies. It continues to be a business headache. Gee's initial plans with Pulte Homes to redevelop the Lakes property into residential neighborhoods did not materialize, and letting the land go vacant ended its tax break as a golf course. The result is a \$1.6 million tax bill from Maricopa County.

The Duke, meanwhile, has not been under threat of redevelopment.

"I like everything running smoothly and getting back to basics," Gee said.

"Running a golf course and not worrying about the rest of the world."

He said the challenges of The Duke are "more golf-technical things than business planning."

That includes finding solutions to normal weather issues that affect the course and dealing with the abnormal weather of the past year. Three holes in particular are impacted by rain.

"We're spending money improving it," Gee said. "Our biggest problem has been in the rainy season when a couple of the holes get flooded and we have to close it. So we're trying to resolve that. Maybe put some berms in. Maybe raise the bridge a little bit that the carts go over."

General Manager Stephen Reish said that involves holes 1, 2 and 4. When access to the first hole gets flooded, he said, no one can finish.

"This is the middle of the season, and El Nino affected us," Gee said. "The weather was strange this year. You can manage all you want, but you cannot control Mother Nature."

The owner also called the wind in Maricopa an issue. He said the solution might be heavier sand as part of the overall improvements. He said he comes to Maricopa every two weeks to meet with management.

If the weather can't be controlled, neither can the international market.

"We were hurt by the Canadians not showing up in numbers this year," Gee said. "It's down 30 percent, but that's Valley-wide. We only control our little part of the world, which is trying to get the golf course up to snuff." ☐



# BUSINESS TAX TIPS

BY JIM CHASTON, CPA

1. Congress has gotten serious about correct **classification of employee versus independent contractors** and increased penalties drastically. Penalties can be more than 100 percent of payments for misclassified employees. Listen to a tax professional, not other business associates and friends. Employee/Contractor classification is based on behavioral control, financial control and a relationship test, NOT a written contract.
2. **Identity theft** is a huge issue. Be sure to secure all digital and electronic information, encrypt hard drives, require passwords, install firewalls and anti-virus software, etc.
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4. Section 179 **Depreciation** increased to \$500,000 for 2015 from \$25,000.
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**Q** My husband and I had our hearts set on a cruise for our 50th wedding anniversary. Although it's a few months away, he's had a recent fall, and I can't handle him alone. Actually I'm afraid to do so. Can Caregivers travel with us? What can we do?

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Chamber committee searches for new director

A search committee has been formed to find a new executive director for the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce.

After the resignation of CEO Marla Lewis on Jan. 27, the chamber's Board of Directors took applications through Feb. 12. Chamber President Suzie Miller said the process has been turned over to the new committee and the board hopes to hire the new director this month.

Chamber members are keeping the doors of the office open as much as possible during the transition.

### Business Licenses

Business licenses issued in February by the city of Maricopa:

**Commercial:** Brian Petersheim

**Home-based:** Mohammed Nafiz, Eby Holdings, Mark Barley, Blissful & Healthy, Robert Bugher, Rent Maricopa, Show Me Traveling Chef Service, Curt F. Von Delius, Myra A. Garrow

**Out of town:** Sunland Inc. Asphalt & Sealcoating, Environmental Earthscapes, Motive Energy Telecommunications Group, The Panini People, Robert Shakman, Filam Enterprises, MKTG Inc., Southwest Life & Equipment, Tailor Made Non-Medical Homecare, M&S Equipment, Sarah Wenger

### Health inspections

The Pinal County Environmental Health Department inspected two eateries in



FILE PHOTO

Maricopa in February. Yogurt Jungle and True Grit Tavern both received "excellent" ratings, meaning no violations were found.

### Business to Business Expo

This year's Business to Business Expo is March 9, 5-7 p.m., at Central Arizona College, Maricopa Campus, in Building A. The campus is at 17945 Regent Drive. Last year's event sold out. There is room for 48 exhibitors.

The third annual event is sponsored by Maricopa Center for Entrepreneurship, Maricopa Chamber of Commerce and Central Arizona College. B2B Expo allows residents to see what Maricopa businesses have to offer and lets business owners network.

Registration is \$26. 

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FITNESS

# To cleanse or not to cleanse in your fitness regimen

BY AARON GILBERT, CSCS

Oops ... Your spouse, with the best of intentions, knowing full well you've been working so hard lately at adopting some healthier habits, surprises you after a long day at work with your favorite indulgence — pizza. Immediately you do what any normal person would do in this circumstance — indulge, then moments later, lament. This manifests into a solace-seeking Facebook post describing the ordeal in detail. Seemingly in nanoseconds, every guru in your Facebook universe comes to the rescue with the en vogue, quick-fix solution to “Just cleanse.”



AARON GILBERT

What is a cleanse or detox diet? Detox diets, or cleanses, typically include a highly restrictive list of foods, juices, teas and/or a whole lot of nothing (i.e. fasting). These diets will typically require you to purchase “detox/cleanse kits” or premade juices. The promise? To rid your body of all the bad stuff, toxins. Sounds like a sweet deal, right? Maybe not so much. Let's take a look:

### Buyer Beware

A cleanse can possibly do more harm than good. Reported side effects include:

- Intense headaches
- Sleep problems
- Feeling weak or dizzy

- Many cleanses are also low in protein. Protein deficiencies can prevent your body's natural ability to eliminate toxins.
- Here's a big one: Cleansing will not help you lose weight, at least not the fat weight you want to lose.
- Any weight loss is probably from water, stored carbohydrate and stuff in your intestines — all of which will come back in a few hours after the cleanse ends.
- Many cleanses are so low in calories they'll negatively affect your hormonal health.

### The Solution: Cleanse Naturally

1. If you're eating too much, you're building up more toxins. For general use, try your using your hand for portion and calorie control. Active women — one palm size of lean protein, one fist of dark green vegetable, one cupped hand of a minimally processed, whole carbohydrate and one full thumb of healthy fat. Active men — two palms of lean protein, two fists of dark green

- vegetable, two cupped hands of minimally processed, whole carbohydrate and two full thumbs of a healthy fat.
  2. Drink enough fluids, minimally 3.7 liters a day for men and 2.7 liters for women.
  3. Get outside in the sun and enjoy some fresh air each day. The sun makes vitamin D happen from our exposure to it.
  4. Exercise and sweat regularly. Skin is a major organ, and this is where a lot of toxins leave the body.
- Keeping it simple with well-balanced nutrition made up of mostly whole, real foods, along with plenty of water, exercise and some fresh air will do your mind and body some wonders.
- Oh, and you can enjoy a yummy, detoxifying pizza guilt-free by making it with a low net carb, whole grain crust, along with a low sugar sauce, loaded with lean protein, and plenty of veggies. 🍕
- Aaron Gilbert is the owner of Longevity Athletics.*



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# Maricopa prepares for mosquito season

BY YVONNE GONZALEZ

Maricopa officials are preparing for mosquito season and looking at spending thousands to equip the city with its own fogging equipment.

Last year's mosquito issues at Copper Sky Regional Park and Pacana Park made for an unpleasant experience for visitors, Community Services Director Kristie Riester said.

"We were having a really big issue with it," she said. "It was just making it hard to enjoy the park."

She said mosquito abatement is done for comfort as well as concern for illnesses transmitted by the insects.

The city council is expected to discuss mosquito mitigation during a March 15 work session. Riester said the council will be asked to weigh hiring a contractor or

buying the fogging equipment to spray areas impacted by mosquitoes.

"We will be presenting two different equipment options to council for foggers," she wrote in an email. "One is \$8,000 and the other is \$15,000. The main difference between the two models is technology and noise level."

Riester said two staff members are already certified to use the fogging equipment, and purchasing it means the city won't have to pay a contractor each time the parks need to be sprayed.

"It was hard," she said of last year's mosquito abatement. "The company that we found that was able to come out and do it for us, they came when they had other larger contracts in the area. It was such a small contract that it was sometimes hard to coordinate that."

She said the city tried to spray the



SUBMITTED

**Mosquitoes were particularly noticeable in Maricopa parks last summer. This year, the city wants to get its own equipment to deal with the problem.**

parks once a week, but if weather or other factors prevented the company from coming out, it was a challenge to reschedule.

The city sprayed the parks starting in mid-June, and Riester said the last application was in September. Fogging cost \$312 for both parks, putting costs for last year at roughly \$2,000.

She said the fogging spray isn't very expensive, and the city would be able to spray more frequently with its own equipment.

"If we can purchase the equipment and do it in-house, it would save a tremendous amount of money and give us more freedom to spray when we need to," she said.

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the most common mosquito-borne disease in Arizona is West Nile virus. About one in five people bitten by an infected mosquito will experience the virus's flu-like symptoms.

The state agency conducts mosquito surveillance, testing samples for viruses so at-risk communities can be identified and steps taken to prevent transmission.

Riester said spreading disease is always a concern for the city.

"That's why we did some abatement last year," she said.

Staff members attended a University of Arizona workshop on mosquitoes in Arizona "to get a better understanding of the insects for the upcoming season,"

Riester said. "I think they learned a lot from that."

The World Health Organization recently declared the Zika virus an international health emergency. The virus started circulating in the Americas in Brazil, with about 20 percent of infected people showing symptoms like rash and fever.

There have been no cases of the virus being transmitted in the United States, but, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the public has become alarmed that Zika could be linked to birth defects in newborns.


**"We were having a really big issue with [mosquitoes]. It was just making it hard to enjoy the park."**

— Kristie Riester, Community Services Director

Arizona is home to the mosquito that can carry Zika as well as the dengue virus, according to ADHS. Dengue has been expanding from the tropics and subtropics, with symptoms including high fever that last four to seven days.

While there have been no locally acquired cases of either virus, state health officials have included that type of mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti*, in the surveillance effort.

Those traveling to countries where Zika is being transmitted are advised to take steps to prevent mosquito bites, like wearing long sleeves.

The health department says detecting and controlling mosquito breeding sites depends on the combined efforts of the state, counties, tribal agencies, local municipalities and residents. Mosquito-borne virus transmission is most prevalent from May to October. 

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# Police foundation offers public memorial bricks for substation

BY ADAM WOLFE

The Maricopa Police Foundation is allowing residents to purchase and engrave memorial bricks “to honor the memory of a lost friend, family or loved one or honor the career of an officer.”



RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Maricopa Police Foundation is raising money for Maricopa Police Department by selling memorial bricks to be placed at the new substation.

To honor past and present officers serving the Maricopa Police Department, the Foundation is going to construct a memorial monument outside the new substation at Copper Sky Regional Park. The monument is the most recent of the foundation’s many endeavors to raise money for the city’s police force.

“The Maricopa Police Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supplying the Maricopa Police

Department with equipment the city can’t afford,” Maricopa Police Foundation Vice-President Steve Stroud said. “We get our money through fund-raisers and use it to purchase necessary equipment to keep the officers safe.”

The foundation is selling two kinds of bricks. Donors can purchase a 4-by-8-inch brick for \$100 or a 9-by-9-inch brick for \$350. The smaller brick allows for three lines of writing (up to 20 characters

on each line), and the larger brick allows for six lines.

“We have the capabilities to put in 6,000 bricks,” Stroud said. “It could take years, but we’d like to have a foundation in place by Memorial Day Weekend.”

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# Science, football add spice to Salsa Festival

BY RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

Salsa meets science again this month in Maricopa.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Maricopa Salsa Festival is March 19, 2-8 p.m., at Copper Sky Regional Park. As always, expect a diverse array of salsas to taste and entertainment all day. Maricopa Science City will have a display of how science impacts modern lives, and watch out for the Rattlers.

Judging of the salsas will be a little different this year, Special Events Manager Niesha Whitman said. The city will have a new mobile app allowing salsa fans to register their votes electronically. Organizers also want to re-work the weight of the judging. Instead of the "celebrity judges" determining the top prize, that Best Overall \$1,000 reward



RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

probably will be determined by the "People's Choice" vote.

Category winners will get \$500, and the judges' prize winner will get \$250.

The Little Pepper Zone will have kids' activities, and adults can imbibe in the beer garden. There will also be a food and vendor village.

"Another change is that there will be a bigger area roped off for people with beer so they don't have to be confined to

the beer garden," Whitman said.

The entertainment begins at 2 p.m. with a full variety of performances. Copper Sky instructors will lead Zumba and Salsa dance lessons. Fiesta Mexican performs twice, bookending Danzarte Danza Folklorica.

Maricopa's Laura Walsh will headline the entertainment. She takes the stage at 7 p.m.

Performing before Walsh will be Maricopa teen Jiselle Diaz, whom Whitman described as having the "voice of an angel."


Maricopa Science City will be set up at the north entrance with its exhibits by local professionals showing the fun side of science. See nitrogen-frozen ice cream, the science of baseball, the science of color, new police technology and much more.

This year, Science City includes

a science fair. Students attending elementary, middle school or high school are invited to register their science projects and compete for scholarship money and a trophy. Check out robots and other student engineering feats.

Arizona's own Arena Football team, the Rattlers, will conduct a public scrimmage during the early part of the festival. This year, the team is having its training camp at Copper Sky.

Admission to the Salsa Festival is free. There is a \$5 charge for the Little Pepper Zone. Salsa voting packets are \$1 each. Parking at Copper Sky is \$5 and free for vehicles with ADA hangtags or plates.

The city is again providing shuttles on a continuous loop to free parking. 



**Maricopa-AZ.gov/web/Salsa-EventInfo**  
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Maricopa Music Circle will be in concert April 2 at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.

## Symphony's concert to be filled with music, dancing

BY RAQUEL HENDRICKSON

The annual spring concert of Maricopa Music Circle, "Dancing into Springtime," will be April 2 at 7 p.m. at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center.


MMC founder Judith Lang Zaimont said the evening will be filled with music that inspires dance. It includes a performance by the Desert Sun Performing Arts troupe.

The music will range from Scott Joplin rags to film scores to Mozart masterpieces. MMC

fans may recognize some numbers from their previous two performances. One was a medley specially created for the debut of the latest Star Wars film. The other was an Oscar-night bash of movie music.

So movie lovers will again enjoy the haunting theme from Laura and Henry Mancini's beloved "Moon River" from Breakfast at Tiffany's along with John Williams' music.

For the more classically inclined, the concert will have music from Brahms, Dvorak, Debussy and the aforementioned Mozart. MMC will also perform Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite."

The concert will be in Theater 12 at UltraStar. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the box office. 



**Facebook.com/MaricopaMusicCircle**



**FOOD & HEALTH**

# Food abnormalities could sink your diet plan

BY CLAIRE BULLIVANT

Weary of being overweight? I bring good news.

For sure, the first step to shed pounds is the unpopular “eat less and exercise more” method. But according to J.J. Virgin’s newly published “The Virgin Diet Cookbook,” “Food intolerance is the hidden cause of weight gain.”

Virgin claims you can lose seven pounds in seven days by dropping seven foods — gluten, dairy, peanuts, eggs, corn, soy, sugar and artificial sweeteners — from your diet.

Interesting! What changes could be causing a proliferation of food intolerances? Possible culprits include nutrient-poor soil, fertilizers, pesticides, added hormones, GMO foods, environmental toxins, preservatives, processed packaged food and fast food as a way of life. These have stripped away nutrients and released harmful toxins into our food. Abnormalities in food can create unwanted reactions, including weight gain, in our bodies.

Our bodies need nutrients to live. Our body defends itself against an overload of toxins by wrapping them in fat and storing them for later. And chronic overdosing on toxins (albeit unknowingly) leads to more fat storage.

The cherry atop this unsavory pie is that because of insufficient nutrient intake, many overweight Americans are actually starving. Our bodies cry out for nutrients, which we interpret as a craving for junk food.

How can we stop the cycle?

1. Shop local and organic where possible — seemingly more expensive short term, but employing the “pay now or pay later” theory will pay off. Make fast food an occasional treat rather than a weekly norm.



CLAIRE BULLIVANT

2. Going on a juice cleanse or detox diet can help identify intolerances. Great natural detoxes include beets, lemons, turmeric, ginger, avocados, cranberries, cabbage and garlic.

3. Create delicious low-carb, high-protein smoothies using only natural ingredients and skip a meal (or two). Add nutrient-dense superfoods like chia, flaxseed flour, ginger root and satiating avocado. Adding turmeric and coconut oil will boost the bioavailability of all the nutrients.

Learn about the synergy effect of combination foods. Simply popping a vitamin pill cannot match the complexity of nutrients in nature. Turmeric is more easily absorbed into the blood with a fat. So eat it with an avocado or a good fat. According to TurmericForHealth.com, “Turmeric and black pepper could be combined to fight high cholesterol levels, obesity and diabetes.” Use the same tricks to make smoothies, soups and salads.

Exchange vegetable oils and butter for virgin coconut oil. Cook and bake with it, use it in salad dressings and even deserts! True story: coconut oil burns fat!

Detox with food-grade essential oils to break down body fat. Add citrus oils to water, juices or other beverages. As promised, I am giving away DoTerra’s Slim & Sassy Soft Gels and Slim & Sassy Metabolic Blend containing these citrus oils. Email your name and number to [admin@beadandberry.com](mailto:admin@beadandberry.com) and we will draw two winners. (Pick up at Bead & Berry, Maricopa).

Losing weight can be yummy! Let me know how it goes! ☺

*Claire Bullivant is the owner of Bead & Berry Coffee House.*

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# A kiss wins photo contest, two burgers tied for first

Two military service members sharing a homecoming kiss at The Lakes at Rancho El Dorado drew the most votes in our Best InMaricopa contest for the best photo in Maricopa in 2015. There was also a tie for first in the best burger contest.

**Merry Grace** was the winning photographer, capturing the couple on the lakeshore near the Global Water offices. One was home on leave while the other was heading off to training.

"This was their moment to capture, and she wanted photos," Grace said. "So we took quite a few photos, and that just happened to be my favorite one."

Many Maricopa restaurants serve up

great burgers, and InMaricopa's contest got heated in the final days and came down to a faceoff. In the end, two burgers tied for first place. By coincidence, both are grilled at golf courses.

The Arroyo Burger at the **Arroyo Grille** at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes scored the same number of votes as the burger at the **Silver Spur Grill** at The Duke at Rancho El Dorado.

"The Arroyo Burger is one of our signature burgers here at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes," Chef Neil Magbanua said. "We wanted to come up with a burger that ties us to the Ak-Chin community and showcased our signature fresh-never-frozen Angus burger patty, using the combination of fresh shredded iceberg lettuce, avocado, tomato, and our green



**Winner  
BEST  
BURGER**

**Winner  
BEST  
PHOTO**



chili aioli while using a frybread bun. Therefore the Arroyo burger was born."

Susan Miller, who manages Silver Spur, said it feels good to have public acknowledgement of their burgers.

"My kitchen manager would say it's because they're made with love," she said. "We use really high-quality beef on a fresh bun or ciabatta bread."

For Maricopa, March means salsa. The Salsa Festival is March 19, but you can vote now for the local restaurant with the best salsa. Visit [InMaricopa.com/Contests](http://InMaricopa.com/Contests) and pick your favorite by March 28. 📱

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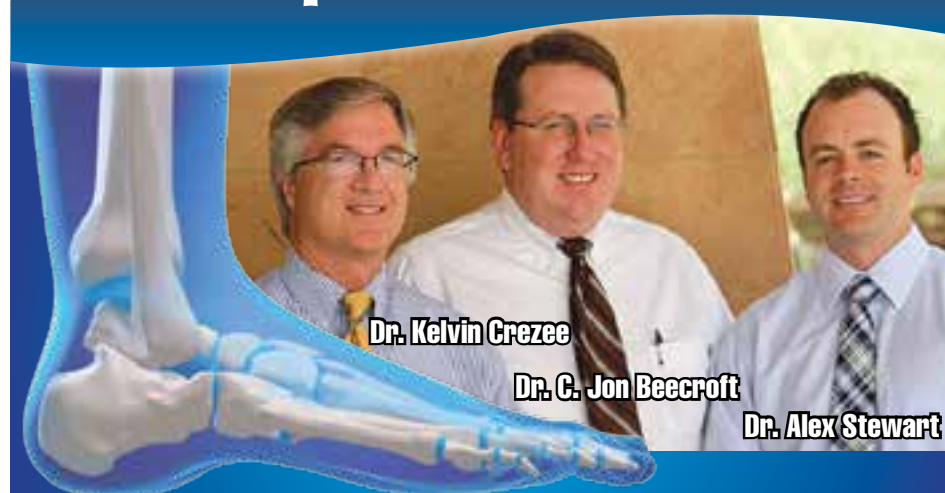
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# Arizona Rattlers to train at Copper Sky

BY ADAM WOLFE

Copper Sky Multigenerational Complex will host the Arizona Rattlers Arena Football team for spring workouts this month.

The practices are scheduled to start on March 8 and will be open to the public March 12-25, 12:30-2:30 p.m. daily.

A scrimmage is planned to coincide with the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Salsa Festival on March 19. The Rattlers are five-time Arena Bowl champions, and won three straight in 2012-14.

“I just want to make the point that this is going to be about the city and about the Ak-Chin Indian Community,” Rattlers head coach Kevin Guy said. “We’re going to put ourselves into the community for two and a half weeks, and I know our players are excited about it. Hopefully this is going to be the start of this year’s championship;



SUBMITTED

**The Arizona Rattlers will move their practice location to Copper Sky with the sponsorship of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.**

it starts right here in Maricopa.”

Guy is also the team’s general manager.

The team will host a kids camp while in town, and from 4 to 5 p.m. on March 16 and 23 the community can participate in the “Read with a



SUBMITTED

Rattler” event in which the team will be reading with children, signing autographs and taking photos with families.


“This was made possible through our longstanding partnership with the Ak-Chin Indian Community,” Maricopa


Mayor Christian Price said. “The Ak-Chin have so graciously donated to Copper Sky and are also major sponsors of the Arizona Rattlers and have now brought us all together for a wonderful partnership that will benefit both of our communities and the region as a whole.”

To accommodate the team, Copper Sky will close the weight room March 15, 17, 22 and 24 from 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. and 10:35 to 11:35 a.m.

Field 8, on the south side of the park, will become a practice field for the Rattlers.

“This is really about growth and about opportunity,” Rattlers President Chris Presson said. “We’re repurposing certain areas including Copper Sky (Multigenerational Complex), which we find to be a marvelous facility, and we want to bring value to your community.”

The Rattlers will cap off training camp with Fan Fest on March 26 at UltraStar Multi-tainment Center, 16000 N. Maricopa Road, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Players, Sidewinders dancers and Rattlers mascot Stryker will be in attendance. 



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# Realtors expect rise in spring listings before summer rush

BY ADAM WOLFE

Spring is nearly here, and with it comes families looking for a new home.

Typically, this time of year is the start of a busy season for local real estate agents. With the housing market flooded with listings in January and February, this year's spring is shaping up to follow suit.

To gain more insight, we asked a few local Realtors what we should expect to see in 2016.

**How does the real estate market in Maricopa change in spring compared to winter months?**

"The market in spring really starts to pick up. In January the market in Maricopa was flooded with 263 new listings, which is higher than any other month in the last year. However, demand starts to increase in spring and many families start to write offers on homes now so that they can close and move over the summer. Generally this



Dayv Morgan

is one of the best times to list your home." — Dayv Morgan, HomeSmart Success

"Over the last two years in Maricopa, there were more homes sold ... April through June period than there was in (January through March), and I expect that trend to continue this year. People also anticipate the end of the school year as we approach the spring and that also translates into listings and sales, as well as rental closings." — Jay Shaver, Maricopa Real Estate Company

"Springtime is a super time to buy or sell, and a time many people are thinking



Pat Lairson

of making an address change. Mother Nature really puts on a show in Arizona in the springtime. So many people are out enjoying our beautiful days, they might just see your for-sale sign and decide to take a look." — Terry Sperry, Coldwell Banker

**What landscaping tips do you give sellers to help springtime curb appeal?**

"Do some spring cleaning. Pack up what is not being used, wash your windows, clean your carpets, clean whatever needs to be cleaned and that goes for outside as well as inside. Cut off



Terry Sperry

all dead branches and clean up leaves and weeds. Plant some fresh flowers even just in pots around your entrance and backyard." — Pat Lairson, Maricopa Real Estate Company

"Keep your yard weed-free. An exterior that is not maintained not only has bad curb appeal, but also implies that the interior is not maintained. Weeds really start to pop up fast this time of year. I would spray the entire yard with a pre-emergent now, and it will last for several months and keep the yard looking good." — Morgan

"Take this time to clean up your front and back yards to give your home that fresh, well-cared-for appearance when they first walk up to the front door. You have many colorful, flowery options for accent plants or pots to make your home pop. Not only will you attract more buyers, you are apt to get a higher price for your home." — Sperry

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**“Human  
consciousness  
comes into  
the world as  
a flaming ball  
of imagination.  
Everything  
invented by  
man, physical  
or mental, is  
the fruit  
of someone’s  
imagination.”**

– Dr. Maria Montessori

### **Providing Maricopa a high-quality Montessori school that:**

- Empowers every child to realize their fullest potential through active, reflective and creative education
- Fosters a love for learning through active partnerships involving students, parents, teachers, staff and community
- Embraces our diversity and unique talents in a safe, challenging, respectful and supportive environment
- Recognizes that personal growth involves responsibility towards ourselves, others and the earth, thus becoming self-determined, self-motivated and contributing members of society.



### **Montessori-educated kids are:**

- Independent learners
- Confident and competent
- Autonomous
- Intrinsically motivated
- Adept at handling guidance and authority
- Socially responsible
- Prepared academically
- “Citizens of the world”

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- MHS girls overpowered by Seton Catholic in basketball quarterfinals
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## Recent home sales

**Median sales price: \$160,000** **Median price per square foot: \$81.10** **Median square feet: 1,927**  
**Median days on market: 52** Maricopa home sales Feb. 1-29, 2016. *Source: Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service*

Subdivision	Close of Escrow	List Price	Sold Price	Price/Sqft	Address		Approx Sqft	Year Built	Beds	Baths	Pool	Days On Market
Acacia Crossings	2/10/16	165,000	165,000	62.26	45340	W Paitilla Ln	2,650	2004	5	3	None	52
Acacia Crossings	2/11/16	167,000	165,000	63.17	45351	W Miraflores St	2,612	2005	5	3	None	89
Alterra	2/8/16	131,900	132,000	93.48	45154	W Yucca Ln	1,412	2005	3	2	None	6
Alterra	2/25/16	129,900	130,000	93.53	45401	W Desert Garden Rd	1,390	2006	3	2	None	16
Alterra	2/26/16	159,900	160,000	61.18	44782	W Sage Brush Dr	2,615	2005	4	2.5	None	24
Alterra	2/10/16	149,900	148,400	84.65	45070	W Windrose Dr	1,753	2005	3	2	None	30
Alterra	2/19/16	200,000	200,000	65.81	44991	W Jack Rabbit Trl	3,039	2005	5	3	None	38
Alterra	2/25/16	199,999	197,000	59.68	17738	N Carmen Ave	3,301	2006	4	3.5	None	183
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	180,000	180,000	82.04	44549	N Venture Ln	2,194	2005	3	2	Community	24
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	175,000	175,000	68.36	21816	N Greenland Park Dr	2,560	2005	5	3	Community	30
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	159,900	159,900	104.51	44137	W Venture Ln	1,530	2004	3	2	Community	35
Cobblestone Farms	2/26/16	219,900	215,000	54.71	43915	W Adobe Cir	3,930	2005	5	3	None	161
Cobblestone Farms	2/19/16	139,000	130,000	71.08	44587	W Bella Trl	1,829	2005	3	2	Community	200
Cobblestone Farms	2/29/16	138,000	142,140	92.96	44142	W Venture Ln	1,529	2005	3	2	Community	275
Desert Cedars	2/26/16	130,000	145,000	74.85	43963	W Buckhorn Trl	1,937	2005	3	2	None	7
Desert Passage	2/23/16	222,931	222,931	96.80	40592	W Dennis Ln	2,303	2015	4	2	None	68
Glennville	2/26/16	164,900	164,900	74.95	41217	W Capistrano Dr	2,200	2009	3	2.5	Community	20
Glennville	2/29/16	199,900	199,900	60.55	42449	W Rosalia Dr	3,301	2006	4	3	Community	29
Glennville	2/29/16	152,500	152,500	95.13	18478	N Arbor Dr	1,603	2006	3	2	Community	73
Glennville	2/5/16	190,000	178,000	79.04	19475	N Ventana Ln	2,252	2007	4	2	Community	78
Glennville	2/4/16	164,650	164,650	71.74	18284	N Jameson Ct	2,295	2008	4	3	Community	113
Glennville	2/12/16	163,900	155,000	65.10	42480	W Santa Fe St	2,381	2009	4	2.5	Community	115
Heritage District	2/12/16	79,000	40,000	40.65	19392	N Taft Ave	984	1955	4	1.75	None	134
Homestead	2/10/16	139,500	130,000	88.74	40505	W Sanders Way	1,465	2010	3	2	None	15
Homestead	2/24/16	179,900	171,000	67.62	40408	W Novak Ln	2,529	2007	4	3	None	39
Homestead	2/24/16	119,000	116,000	108.81	40060	W Sanders Way	1,066	2007	3	2	None	49
Homestead	2/1/16	168,900	168,900	108.83	40172	W Walker Way	1,552	2015	3	2	None	52
Homestead	2/26/16	172,500	168,500	91.38	41087	W Hayden Dr	1,844	2008	3	2	None	64
Homestead	2/10/16	160,900	158,900	114.40	40028	W Walker Way	1,389	2015	3	2	None	67
Homestead	2/25/16	182,900	180,000	97.93	40047	W Walker Way	1,838	2015	3	2	None	153
The Lakes At Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	399,900	399,900	140.36	22105	N Diamond Dr	2,849	2008	4	3	Private	46
The Lakes At Rancho El Dorado	2/25/16	138,900	138,000	110.57	41369	W Little Dr	1,248	2008	3	2	None	51
The Lakes At Rancho El Dorado	2/13/16	125,000	125,000	92.18	41215	W Bravo Dr	1,356	2007	3	2	None	53
The Lakes At Rancho El Dorado	2/24/16	174,900	170,000	71.64	21368	N Denver Ct	2,373	2009	4	3	None	62
The Lakes At Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	189,900	160,000	48.82	40751	W Colby Dr	3,277	2008	5	2.5	None	628
Maricopa Meadows	2/3/16	144,000	142,000	73.68	45555	W Dirk St	1,927	2004	4	2	None	5
Maricopa Meadows	2/8/16	137,500	132,000	94.01	45588	W Tulip Ln	1,404	2005	3	2	None	5
Maricopa Meadows	2/12/16	154,900	151,000	55.33	45647	W Starlight Dr	2,729	2005	4	3.5	None	9
Maricopa Meadows	2/17/16	139,900	138,900	113.95	19479	N Miller Way	1,219	2004	3	2	Private	9
Maricopa Meadows	2/24/16	115,000	107,000	72.94	45986	W Gullder Ave	1,467	2004	3	2	None	17
Maricopa Meadows	2/25/16	99,750	95,000	58.82	45570	W Amsterdam Rd	1,615	2005	3	2.5	None	22
Maricopa Meadows	2/29/16	149,900	145,000	99.72	46073	W Barbara Ln	1,454	2005	3	2	Private	23
Maricopa Meadows	2/16/16	127,900	126,750	69.95	45652	W Amsterdam Rd	1,812	2005	3	2.5	None	38
Maricopa Meadows	2/25/16	179,900	173,000	94.02	45520	W Dutchman Dr	1,840	2005	4	2	Private	39
Maricopa Meadows	2/26/16	149,900	155,000	76.51	46058	W Tulip Ln	2,026	2005	3	2	None	43
Maricopa Meadows	2/20/16	125,000	129,000	89.08	46137	W Windmill Dr	1,448	2005	4	2	None	46
Province	2/25/16	139,900	135,000	111.75	42469	W Jawbreaker Dr	1,208	2004	2	2	Community	11
Province	2/5/16	249,000	239,000	138.95	42360	W Fountainhead St	1,720	2006	2	2	Community	22
Province	2/10/16	218,482	210,000	134.27	42897	W Kingfisher Dr	1,564	2015	2	2	Community	28
Province	2/29/16	145,900	145,900	124.38	42168	W Basie Ln	1,173	2007	2	2	Community	37
Province	2/1/16	216,000	207,000	89.53	20953	N Get Around Dr	2,312	2006	2	2.5	Community	45
Province	2/8/16	310,000	280,000	146.52	42427	W Good Vibrations Ln	1,911	2005	2	2	Community	54
Province	2/26/16	238,500	224,500	141.82	20133	N Laguna Way	1,583	2012	2	2	Community	63
Province	2/17/16	279,900	250,000	80.80	21039	N Get Around Dr	3,094	2006	3	3.5	Community	140
Province	2/3/16	178,900	175,000	96.42	42616	W Abbey Rd	1,815	2004	2	2	Community	145
Province	2/22/16	339,000	300,000	129.75	42429	W Jail House Rock Ct	2,312	2004	2	2.5	Both	226
Rancho El Dorado	2/24/16	157,500	155,000	101.50	42444	W Colby Dr	1,527	2005	3	2	None	1
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	179,000	175,000	103.85	42367	W Chambers Dr	1,685	2004	3	2	Private	20
Rancho El Dorado	2/16/16	249,900	249,000	107.65	22112	N Vargas Dr	2,313	2004	3	2	Private	34
Rancho El Dorado	2/22/16	134,900	133,797	93.17	42586	W Sunland Dr	1,436	2003	3	2	None	48
Rancho El Dorado	2/2/16	169,900	169,000	74.22	21429	N Scott Dr	2,277	2005	4	2.5	Private	50
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	175,000	160,000	113.64	21297	N Falcon Ln	1,408	2005	3	2	Private	52
Rancho El Dorado	2/16/16	149,989	145,750	86.50	42582	W Bunker Dr	1,685	2002	3	2	None	54
Rancho El Dorado	2/2/16	182,500	179,000	84.00	42642	W Venture Rd	2,131	2003	3	2	None	57
Rancho El Dorado	2/3/16	177,900	179,000	83.26	42670	W Venture Rd	2,150	2003	3	2	None	59
Rancho El Dorado	2/11/16	219,900	212,500	70.88	43303	W Courtney Dr	2,998	2001	4	2.5	Private	65
Rancho El Dorado	2/25/16	169,900	172,000	78.75	42623	W Hillman Dr	2,184	2003	4	2.5	None	65
Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	229,900	220,000	67.13	21536	N Denton Dr	3,277	2009	5	3	None	84
Rancho El Dorado	2/9/16	142,000	138,500	84.81	44129	W Oster Dr	1,633	2004	3	2	Community	102
Rancho El Dorado	2/23/16	147,700	142,000	61.21	21928	N Braden Rd	2,320	2002	4	2.5	None	108
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	144,900	140,000	68.69	41298	W Park Hill Dr	2,038	2009	4	2.5	None	110
Rancho El Dorado	2/29/16	154,600	157,500	101.81	41980	W Sunland Dr	1,547	2005	3	2.5	Private	133
Rancho El Dorado	2/19/16	219,600	212,000	94.81	42646	W Colby Dr	2,236	2003	4	2.5	Private	170
Rancho El Dorado	2/10/16	334,900	329,000	112.29	42371	W Bravo Dr	2,930	2004	4	2.5	Private	171
Rancho El Dorado	2/26/16	199,000	198,000	85.64	22022	N Vargas Dr	2,312	2004	4	2	Community	173
Rancho El Dorado	2/26/16	214,900	210,000	65.58	37984	W San Capistrano Ave	3,202	2008	4	3.5	Private	37
Rancho El Dorado	2/26/16	130,000	127,100	53.22	37415	W Vera Cruz Dr	2,388	2008	3	2.5	None	615
Saddleback Farms	2/19/16	119,900	95,500	53.06	11388	N Russell Rd	1,800	1986	4	2	None	193
Santa Rosa Springs	2/19/16	129,000	105,500	77.40	42228	W Calle St	1,363	2006	3	2	None	66
Senita	2/19/16	135,000	134,000	88.80	18590	N Comet Trl	1,509	2008	3	2	None	36
Senita	2/2/16	209,900	205,000	54.87	19226	N Comet Trl	3,736	2007	5	3	None	52
Senita	2/29/16	148,900	145,500	80.12	43325	W Blazen Trl	1,816	2006	3	2	None	121
Senita	2/9/16	230,000	225,500	60.35	43298	W Magnolia Rd	3,736	2006	5	3		



# In Maricopa's hot real estate market, beware of hidden costs

BY PAT LAIRSON

The Maricopa real estate market is jumping, with new listings coming on the market daily and houses going under contract, too.

There are currently 458 single-family dwellings listed for sale on the MLS in Maricopa. There are 258 homes under contract since Jan. 1 that are either pending or closed. The rental market is hot, too, with only 17 single-family dwellings available that are not vacation rentals.

You read that right.

If you are a renter you may have felt the heat from the lack of homes available and multiple applicants to contend with. You might want to look into buying now, even if your FICO score isn't ready yet. Talking to a lender can get you on the right track.

Here is a question from a reader that I think is appropriate for people who want to sell or buy right now.

What costs are involved and who pays for what? What are the "hidden" costs? — Toni Marie McDonald

In buying or selling a home, there are certain costs for a seller and certain costs for a buyer, and then some of those costs can be negotiated.

A seller pays Realtors' commissions, title insurance policy for the buyer in order to ensure a clean title, sellers' escrow costs and the HOA disclosure fee. This usually totals about 8 percent of the sales price of the home.

Buyers pay for their own home inspection (approximately \$350) and their appraisal (\$450). Buyers pay for their own loan down payment, which can be between 0 and 20 percent. A buyer's closing cost is about 3 percent of the purchase price of the home if they are getting a loan. Some costs can be negotiated back to either the buyer or the seller.


HOA fees vary per subdivision

and although the seller pays the HOA disclosure fee, there could be other HOA fees that are negotiable for either the buyer or seller to pay.

If a buyer is trying to pay as little out of pocket as possible to get into a home, the buyer can ask the seller to pay their closing costs. If this is requested then usually the buyer writes close to a full price offer or more and the seller still gets the net they need.

A home warranty policy is another negotiable item and can be paid by either party. Every contract is different. There are no hidden costs in a real estate transaction. All costs are documented in the purchase contract paperwork and

the title company, who acts as a neutral third party, will give the seller and buyer a written financial disclosure with all costs to review before closing.

If you have a real estate question, please email it in to me. 

Pat Lairson is a Realtor with The Maricopa Real Estate Company.

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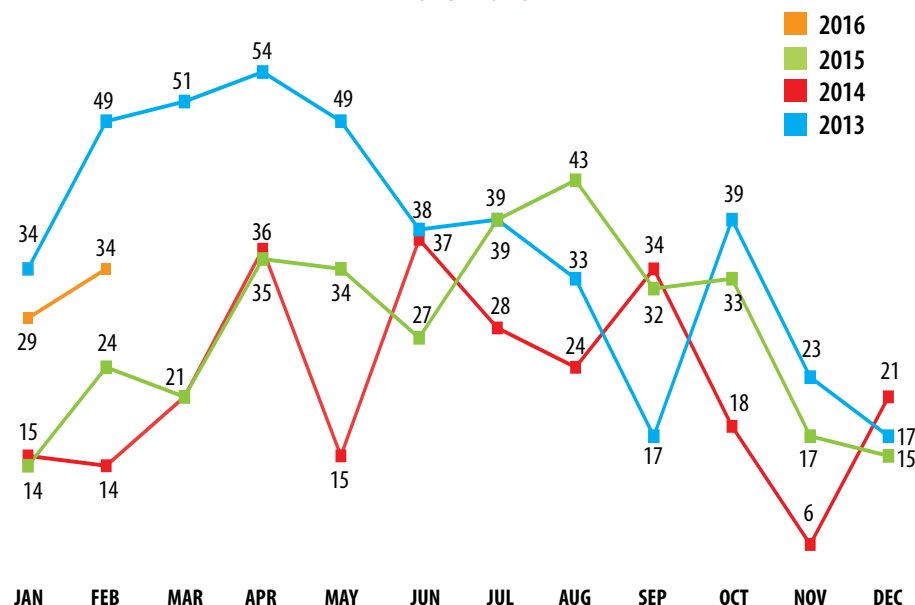
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Home building in Maricopa has had a strong start to 2016 compared to the previous two years.



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# MHS baseball playing for 'bigger purpose'

BY ADAM WOLFE

The Maricopa High School baseball team hopes to honor Nate Ford with their play on the field and their actions off it.

Ford, an MHS football and baseball player, was killed in an August traffic accident. His death served as a rallying cry for the football team, which went 7-3, and the community as a whole.

The MHS baseball team will look to similarly honor Ford as they take the field this season. His mother Jennifer has called baseball his first love. The players hope to keep Ford's memory alive by showcasing the incredible work ethic he brought to every practice, and to be successful both on and off the field.

"Nate had the most heart and was the hardest-working player I have ever been around," head coach Andrew Pollak said. "Our players have one responsibility and that is to continue to let people see the qualities Nate displayed on the baseball field and in the community."

The Rams will look to an experienced group of five seniors to provide leadership and support for a team that features four sophomores and three freshmen.

"Our seniors this season are Ivan Herrera, who was a Division II First Team All-Academic winner last season, Tyler Rapp, who is a four-year varsity starter, Chad Nachtweh, who has improved tremendously and plays a very good first base, Kevin Borboa who covers a lot of ground in centerfield and will see a lot of innings on the mound, and newcomer Christian Garcia, who is a catcher in his first season as a Maricopa Ram," Pollak said.

Maricopa plays in Arizona Interscholastic Association's Division III, down a division from last year.




WILLIAM LANGE

**This year's senior Rams are (from left) Kevin Borboa, Tyler Rapp, Chad Nachtweh, Ivan Herrera and Christian Garcia. The late Nate Ford would have been a senior and is listed on the roster as captain.**

The drop in divisions will not translate to an easier schedule for the Rams. Maricopa is scheduled to face seven playoff teams from 2015, including Division III state runner-up Walden Grove High School (Sahuarita) and Division III semi-finalists Fountain Hills High School and

Scottsdale Christian Academy.

"The one common theme that we have talked about as a team is how we are playing for a bigger purpose this season," Pollak said. "Our goal as a team is to make sure every day our actions are making Nate Ford proud." 

## EDUCATION

# Change in teaching strategy would lead to more success in math, STEM

MURRAY SIEGEL

There is an ever-growing need for Americans with college degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) disciplines and most efforts to meet this need involve enticing high school and/or middle school students to consider a STEM career.

To date, these efforts have not been fruitful. What, you may ask, can be done differently? You must understand that a significant block to students pursuing a STEM education is their lack of ability or confidence in mathematics, which can be traced to their elementary school education.

Most elementary school teachers and administrators are focused on language arts. They teach science and social studies as well as language arts through reading and writing. They believe the best environment for students is found in a heterogeneous classroom (where students of all abilities are blended together).

This works fine in social studies and science since

these subjects are not cumulative. If you have difficulties with the study of birds, you may still be successful in the study of fish. If you did not quite understand your study of Africa, that would not stop you from being successful in an investigation of Europe.

Unlike these subjects, mathematics is cumulative.


If you cannot add whole numbers, you cannot multiply whole numbers, and you certainly cannot add fractions. A typical fifth grade class might have students who still cannot successfully add or subtract whole numbers as well as students who can already compute with fractions and decimals, and a variety of students in between.

How does the teacher educate this diverse group of students? There are those who call for individualized instruction, but I have yet to see this accomplished in a real school (lab schools do not count). Typically the teacher teaches to the middle of the group. Those with weak skills never catch up and those with advanced abilities grow bored, and decide math is not for them. Is it any wonder that so few Americans can

be successful in calculus?

Why not allow all students in a particular grade to have math at the same time, and set up the math classes by ability level? Select the teacher for each class based on his/her strengths in teaching math. The teacher who is responsible for the weakest students must believe that all students can learn and be supplied with a toolkit of resources for successful remediation.

Some complain the class with the weakest students will have all the discipline problems, but this is not so. Once students find success they will no longer feel the need to be disruptive. Of course, truly disruptive students should be dealt with so that they do not diminish the opportunity for others to learn. That is a subject for a future article.

Examine your neighborhood elementary school and see if math classes are grouped by ability or if the classes are a hodgepodge of varying skills. 

*Murray Siegel is a Maricopa resident. He has a Ph.D. in Math Ed and 42 years of teaching experience. He and his wife Sharon volunteer at Maricopa schools.*



MURRAY SIEGAL



EDUCATOR Q&A

# ‘Learning never stops’ for Maricopa’s Educator of the Year

Known as Mrs. Russ by her students, Bernadette Russoniello is in her 15<sup>th</sup> school year teaching at Maricopa High School. She teaches marketing and journalism and has developed an award-winning DECA program at MHS.

This year, she was the recipient of the Educator of the Year award at the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Banquet.

**What is your favorite part of being an educator?** Every day is different, every day is a fresh start, every day offers a challenge — the learning never stops. I love helping students get excited about an opportunity that can change their life.

**What has been the highlight of your career so far?** Being part of a community and working to challenge students to be an active and dynamic force in their school and community.

**Why did you choose education as a career?** I love school! As a kid, I would play school all the time. I would line up my stuffed animals and teach them various lessons. I would assign them homework, do all their assignments and then grade them. I turned my bookshelf into a library, making pockets, check-out cards and a mini card catalog. In high school, I did



Bernadette Russoniello

SUBMITTED

everything — sports, choir, drama, athletic training, peer mentoring, captained the science team — I couldn’t get enough learning. To the ever-lasting dismay of my family, I turned away from my medical school plans and pursued teaching.

**What would be your “other career” option?** Cruise director, Tahitian resort manager or National Park ranger. Hospitality and travel are a passion. I also love community, leadership and programs — so any job that incorporates those elements is a natural fit for me.

**Why Maricopa?** Maricopa offered me a job teaching English before I even earned my full credential. I think it was a risk that has paid off. I started at MHS when

Rancho El Dorado was still pecan groves and the entire district (K-12, district office and transportation) filled the area of the current high school campus. Maricopa High School reminded me a lot of New River Elementary School — both in the buildings at the time and the staff. It simply felt like home. The incredibly affordable housing also swayed the decision for our young family.

**What are the biggest challenges facing Maricopa students today?** Distractions: cell phones, social media “drama” and adult responsibilities. My senior students were just telling me today they wish they had more time to “just be a kid.” These distractions force students to narrow their focus and stop dreaming.

**What was the best advice you received about your own education?** Learning never stops. A textbook and a

college degree have an expiration date — the pace of our world and the access to information has reshaped the role of teacher from sage on the stage to guide on the side.

**What advice do you give parents of schoolchildren?** Autonomy. Mastery. Purpose. Let your kids have some choice about what and how they learn; make sure they have the time and support to be really *great* at something; expose them to opportunities to serve a purpose greater than themselves (community service and involvement).

**What have your students taught you?** Forgiveness is essential and judgment is dangerous. Take time to ask, “Why didn’t you do your work? Why the bad mood?” Too many assumptions take place in schools between colleagues, teachers, students, etc. Take time to hear their story.

**Bernadette Russoniello**  
**Title:** Teacher  
**School:** Maricopa High School  
**Hometown:** New River, Arizona  
**Residence:** Rancho El Dorado  
**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in English, BA in history, Arizona State University - Barrett Honors College; post-bac Secondary Education, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Arizona State University; finishing M.Ed in Educational Leadership Northern Arizona University  
**Family:** Wonderfully supportive husband and fellow teacher Michael Russoniello, four articulate and outgoing children (Joey, Timmy, Grace and John) all attending Santa Rosa  
**Teaching positions held:** English 9-12, U.S. History, AP Literature, AP Language, AP

U.S. History, AP U.S. Government and Politics, Student Council, Marketing, Journalism plus adjunct instructor teaching Political Science, English and Education for CAC  
**Years in Education:** 15  
**First job out of college:** Ran a travelling day camp summer program for the Jewish Community Center the summer prior to teaching at Maricopa (2001)  
**Hobbies:** Hiking, camping, biking, making the most of summer vacation with epic road trips (check out my Facebook!), piano and vocals (spent eight years serving as music minister at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church)  
**First year with current school:** 2001  
**Favorite subject when you were in elementary school?** Reading, writing, spelling and social studies

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